

Gideon Blackburn to Andrew Jackson, November 20, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

REV. GIDEON BLACKBURN TO JACKSON.1

1 Rev. Gideon Blackburn was a Presbyterian minister at Franklin, Tenn. He was of the type popular on the frontier. He was loyal to Jackson, in whose behalf he used his influence to obtain recruits for the army. He accompanied Colonel Carroll's body of recruits on their march to join Jackson in December, and while encamped at Huntsville he met a body of mounted men who had marched away from Fort Strother full of the prevailing spirit of mutiny. He "addressed them in a very patriotic manner", but without avail.

Franklin, November 20, 1813

Dear General , Dr. Genl. do not risk too much untill you should be recruited. West Tennessee has souls who would fly to your rilif if they knew you needed their assistance. I know my efforts are not very important but if I knew you needed assistance, I would myself commence the office of recruiting officers and march for your encampment. Could I dare to ask the General for the feelings of his heart on that subject I would do it; but he knows I would serve him, and I can assure you that my heart would be wrung with poignant distress to think you were suffering and thousands of us lying at home at our ease. Should the Indians be determined to give you battle it will I suspect be near the Hickery ground—they are no doubt instigated by the Spanierds and British and if so will defend to the last extremity. I know they can be subdued but it would be desirable that it could be done with safty. I know that your army will do all that valor can affect but if those wretched savages should get one advantage your case would be serious